NAVAL WAR COLLEGE
NEWPORT, R. I.

NC8/A16-1/885/GHM:bz
Serial 079

**NAVY DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIO
ON FILE**

CONFIDENTIAL

8 June 1948

From: President, Naval War College
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: War College Problems for the Classes of May, 1949 -
         description of.

Ref: (a) CNO ltr A3-1(MC) Serial 6703 of 15 Oct 1945.

1. For the information of the Chief of Naval Operations there
is listed herein the operations problems scheduled for the War
College Classes of May, 1949.

2. A total of twelve operations problems are scheduled for
study. Since future operations will involve all three services,
the relationship with the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army is
carefully considered in many of these problems, though the empha-
sis is always on Sea Power. The scheduled operations problems
can be grouped into the following types:

    (a) Five strategic problems, each involving joint and com-
        bined operations in a different theater. Each of these
        strategic problems will cover a period in the curriculum
        of from three to five weeks. The student will be re-
        quired to solve the military problem commencing with the
        Estimate of the Situation and ending with preparation of
        the directive. The first problem will be solved only
        from the point of view of the United States. In the re-
        maining four, approximately half of the students will
        solve the problem from the United States (and allied)
        point of view, while the other half solves the enemy side.
        An appropriate student solution will then be selected
        from each side and tested against one another in a chart
        maneuver.

    (b) Five tactical problems, each covering a period of two or
        three days in the curriculum and requiring of the student

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          quick decisions in tactical situations. The Senior and
          Junior Classes will participate in these problems, each
          class developing the tactical situation on a separate
          maneuver board.

     (c) One amphibious problem covering a period of four weeks
          in the curriculum and involving the detailed study of
          the overseas amphibious seizure.

     (d) One global problem involving the study of the nature of
          a future war in which a Eurasian power is the principal
          enemy.

3.   A brief description of each problem, together with the date
it is scheduled to be taken up, follows:

     (a) <u>Operations Problem 1</u> (2 August 1948) is a strategic pro-
          blem in the North Pacific Theater. It involves the sei-
          zure of an advanced base in Northeastern Asia. Japan is
          assumed to be neutral and the advanced base is required to
          augment the air effort now underway from Alaskan bases
          against Northeastern Asia. Logistics problems, the employ-
          ment of atomic weapons, guided missiles, and other new
          weapons, now in existence or under development, will be
          studied in this and subsequent problems. This problem is
          designed primarily to familiarize the student with the
          fundamentals involved in the solution of a military pro-
          blem. Only the United States side of this problem will be
          solved. Members of the Senior, Junior and Logistics
          Classes will participate, each submitting an individual
          solution based on the same requirements.

     (b) <u>Operations Problem 2</u> (6 October 1948) is a tactical pro-
          blem involving an attack on and defense of a convoy. The
          problem is designed to bring out the significance of inter-
          ior and exterior lines.

     (c) <u>Operations Problem 3</u> (10 September 1948) is a strategic
          problem in the North Atlantic - Arctic Theater. It in-
          volves a study of the significance of bases in Greenland
          and Iceland to control of North Atlantic sea and air lanes.
          Airborne operations, mobile Fleet and air logistics, and
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regions will be studied in this problem. Selected student
solutions will be developed in a chart maneuver. The
Senior and Junior Classes will solve the strategic and
tactical aspects of this problem and will make the major
command decisions upon which the logistics solution can be
based. Members of the Logistics Class, working from the
staff solution, will solve the logistics problems presented.
Members of all classes will submit individual solutions.

(d) Operations Problem 4 (18 November 1948) is a tactical problem
    involving a study of carrier air attacks on surface forces.

(e) Operations Problem 5 (4 November 1948) is a strategic problem
    in the Eastern Mediterranean Theater. It will involve a
    study of a situation in which a sudden enemy advance makes
    the Eastern Mediterranean basin untenable for United States
    and allied forces. Measures required for the emergency
    assembly, instruction, and withdrawal of friendly shipping
    and facilities to a more secure area in the face of hostile
    air, land, and undersea power, will be studied in this
    problem. Selected student solutions will be developed in a
    chart maneuver. The Senior and Junior Classes will partici-
    pate. Individual solutions will be submitted.

(f) Operations Problem 6 (14 January 1949) is a tactical problem
    involving the study of a night engagement between surface
    forces.

(g) Operations Problem 7 (3 January 1949) is a strategic problem
    in the Persian Gulf-Arabian Sea-Indian Ocean Theater. It
    will involve a study of the measures required to exercise
    control of the Persian Gulf from the Indian Ocean Theater
    in the face of strong land and land-based air power being
    exerted from the North. Logistics problems in the Indian
    Ocean Theater, including shore and mobile advanced base and
    air and mobile Fleet support problems will be solved. Se-
    lected student solutions will be developed in a chart
    maneuver. The Senior and Junior Classes will solve this
    problem as in (c) above. The Logistics Class will solve
    the logistics problems presented, as in (c) above.

(h) Operations Problem 8 (25 January 1949) is a tactical problem
    involving a study of night destroyer action.

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(i) <u>Operations Problem 9</u> (16 February 1949) is an amphibious
problem involving a seizure of an objective either in
Iceland or the Canary Islands. It will be a study of all
phases of amphibious planning. The Senior, Junior and
Logistics Classes will participate. Students will be
divided into groups representing operational staffs. Tacti-
cal and logistics problems will be solved concurrently.
Logistics emphasis will be on the problems of embarkation
of an amphibious force, logistics of the ship to shore
movement, the initial supply and the build-up of supply.
Group solutions will be submitted.

(j) <u>Operations Problem 10</u> (15 March 1949) is a tactical problem
involving a study of submarine and anti-submarine action.

(k) <u>Operations Problem 11</u> (25 March 1949) is a strategic pro-
blem in the Eastern Atlantic-Mediterranean Theater. It
will involve the seizure of a position in Southern Europe
against an enemy that has overrun most of the European
Continent. Acquisition of this position will be considered
necessary, in this problem, for the development of strate-
gic bomber bases and as a first step in reopening the Medi-
terranean. In addition to the strategic and tactical
aspects, all phases of the logistics problem will be studied,
and a logistics estimate and annex will be prepared. Se-
lected student solutions will be developed in a chart maneu-
ver. The Senior, Junior, and Logistics Classes will parti-
cipate and submit group solutions as in (i) above.

(1) <u>Operations Problem 12</u> (3 January 1949) is the global problem
which will be under study by the Senior, Junior and Logis-
tics Classes during the last four months of the War College
course. Concurrently with the study of this global problem,
Operations Problems 7 through 11 will be taken up in succes-
sion. It will be concerned with the nature and strategic
concept of a future war with a Eurasian power. It will in-
volve committee and individual effort on the part of the
student, but each student will submit an individual solution.

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